

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: KMCO, Crosby, TX

DATE: April 10, 2019

CONTACTS: Carl Edlund

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

BACKGROUND:

On April 2, 2019 between 1100 and 1130 hours, the EPA became aware of an explosion and fire at the KMCO Inc. facility at 16503 Ramsey Road, Crosby, Harris County, TX. The facility report indicated that a leak in the isobutylene line that caused a fire at the facility. The fire spread to a warehouse at the site and impacted tanks containing ethanol, methanol, methyl acetate, isobutylene and toluene tanks. The Aerial Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) airborne monitoring platform detected 2-butene, acetone, ammonia, isobutylene and isoprene, all below applicable screening levels. In addition, EPA's Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) unit monitored the area and found no constituents at or above screening levels. EPA and Harris county roving handheld monitoring teams also had no detects at screening levels. The fire was extinguished at approximately 1800 hours on April 2, 2019. The facility then began removing product and fire suppression water and foam from the impacted areas as well as the containment and removal of product and fire water which migrated off-site.

CURRENT STATUS:

EPA emergency response activities are complete.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

At the time of the fire, a one-mile shelter-in-place advisory was instituted. No detects above applicable screening levels were found during the monitoring by Harris County and EPA's three platforms (ASPECT, TAGA, and handheld units). All the run-off from the site was contained and removed via vac trucks.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- ??? Help???

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- The county and state continue to investigate the cause of the fire and the facility.



Workforce Diversity, Environmental Stewardship Character, Accountability, Respect, Excellence